


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Original) A mini-packet protocol, comprising:  
assembling mini-packets into a payload wherein each mini-packet includes an associated mini-header for ensuring proper processing of each mini-packet; and  
adding padding to mini-packets when the mini-packets are encrypted to insure each mini-packet is an integral multiple of a predetermined block size.
  2. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 1 wherein padding for each mini-packet is determined according to:  
$$p = n - k * \text{floor}(n-1/k),$$
  
wherein p is the amount of padding added to each mini-packet, n is the actual data size, and k is the block size
  3. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 2 wherein the padding added to the data for each packet comprises p-1 units of padding and a final padding unit for indicating the amount of padding.
  4. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 3 wherein the unit is bytes.
  5. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 1 further comprising adding an authenticator to each mini-packet.
  6. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 5 further comprising setting a length indicator in each mini-header for indicating a total length of the mini-packet including the authenticator.

✓ 7. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 6 further comprising removing the authenticator based upon knowing a type of authentication used for generating the authenticator.

8. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 7 wherein the type of authentication comprises HMAC-SHA1 and the authenticator is 20 bytes.

✗ 9. (Currently amended) The mini-packet protocol of claim 7 wherein the type of authentication comprises HMAC-MD5 and be the authenticator is 16 bytes.

✗ 10. (Original) A mini-packet controller, comprising:  
a disassembler for receiving a payload, the payload including a plurality of mini-packets, wherein the disassembler dismantles the payload into individual mini-packets;  
a controller and signaling module, coupled to the disassembler, for processing the individual mini-packets, the controller further assembling the individual mini-packets into a payload wherein each mini-packet includes an associated mini-header for ensuring proper processing of each mini-packet and adding padding to mini-packets when the mini-packets are encrypted to insure each mini-packet is an integral multiple of a predetermined block size; and  
an assembler for combining mini-packets into a new payload for transmission via an output port.

11. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 10 wherein the padding for each mini-packet is determined according to:

$$p=n-k*\text{floor}(n-1)/k),$$

wherein  $p$  is the amount of padding added to each mini-packet,  $n$  is the actual data size, and  $k$  is the block size.

12. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 11 wherein the added padding for each packet comprises  $p-1$  units of padding and a final padding unit for indicating the amount of padding.

13. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 12 wherein the units are bytes.

14. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 10 wherein the controller and signaling module adds an authenticator to each mini-packet.

15. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 14 wherein the controller sets a length indicator in each mini-header for indicating a total length of the mini-packet including the authenticator.

16. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 15 wherein the controller and signaling module removes authenticators based upon knowing a type of authentication used for generating an authenticator.

17. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 16 wherein the type of authentication comprises HMAC-SHA1 and the authenticator is 20 bytes.

18. (Original) The mini-packet controller of claim 16 wherein the type of authentication comprises HMAC-MD5 and the authenticator is 16 bytes.

19. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer readable medium having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising:

assembling mini-packets into a payload wherein each mini-packet includes an associated mini-header for ensuring proper processing of each mini-packet; and

adding padding to mini-packets when the mini-packets are encrypted to insure each mini-packet is an integral multiple of a predetermined block size.

20. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 19 wherein padding for each mini-packet is determined according to:

$$p=n-k*\text{floor}(n-1/k),$$

wherein  $p$  is the amount of padding added to each mini-packet,  $n$  is the actual data size, and  $k$  is the block size.


21. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 20 wherein the padding added to the data for each packet comprises  $p-1$  units of padding and a final padding unit for indicating the amount of padding.

22. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 21 wherein the unit is bytes.

23. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 19 further comprising adding an authenticator to each mini-packet.

24. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 23 further comprising setting a length indicator in each mini-header for indicating a total length of the mini-packet including the authenticator.

25. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 24 further comprising removing the authenticator based upon knowing a type of authentication used for generating the authenticator.



26. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 25 wherein types of authentication comprises HMAC-SHA1 and the authenticator is 20 bytes.

Please amend claim 27 as follows.

27. (Original) The mini-packet protocol of claim 25 wherein the type of authentication comprises HMAC-MD5 and ~~be~~ the authenticator is bytes.

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